



Local Plan Update

Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (July 2016)

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Non-Technical Summary

- 1.1 This document is a Sustainability Appraisal of the options set out in the Local Plan Update Issues and Options consultation. It takes each option for each policy area (where these have been derived) and in turn considers how the option performs against a range of environmental, social and economic objectives, which have been defined in the Council's Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.
- 1.2 The objective of the Sustainability Appraisal is to highlight what the likely effects of each option will be. This allows options to be compared to each other, and, where they are proposed to be taken forward into policy, identifies mitigation measures that need to be taken to make sure that adverse effects are lessened or eliminated entirely.
- 1.3 At this stage of the Local Plan Update process, there are a range of very different options for policies. Therefore, it is not possible to generalise at this stage about what the likely implications will be. As the Local Plan Update is progressed through the different stage, i.e. once draft policies are in place, it will be possible to better identify what the overall effects of the plan as a whole are.
- 1.4 As the draft Local Plan is progressed, it will be accompanied by the next stage of the Sustainability Appraisal, which will again be subject to consultation.
- 1.5 We have appraised the options for the spatial strategy in this document and a summary of the likely effects (both positive and negative) can be seen in table 1.

Table 1 - Summary of likely effects for the Spatial Strategy

	Option 1 - Continue the approach of a small number of large developments that provide for their own infrastructure needs based on garden town/village principles	Option 2 - A large number of smaller developments around the Borough	Option 3 - Do nothing and let the market dictate when and where development will take place	Option 4 - Focus development at existing larger settlements	Option 5 - Focus development at existing smaller settlements	Option 6 - A combination of some / all of the above approaches
Commentary including positive and negative effects	With the Garden town/village approach, the much needed infrastructure to deliver sustainable communities can be incorporated into the developments more readily. This approach would see a reduction in greenfield land impacting negatively upon objectives 10 and 11.	With a large number of small developments around the Borough, infrastructure is already in place, however, this option is more likely to increase strain on existing infrastructure than option 1. This option will have similar negative effects to option 1.	By letting the market dictate, there would be no control over where development would take place. Infrastructure would not be planned or incorporated into future development plans as the council would not be aware of where development would potentially take place. This would have a negative effect on options 4, 9 and 11.	With the expansion to existing larger settlements, employment levels will continue to be stable and smart economic growth will be encouraged. This option will have similar negative effects to option 1. This option is more likely to create more strain on existing infrastructure than option 1.	Expanding existing smaller settlements, infrastructure is already in place, however, this option is more likely to increase strain on existing infrastructure than option 1.	By combining all or some of the options the boroughs characteristic could be negatively impacted due to this sporadic approach. Existing infrastructure may not be able to cope with the new developments and planning for sustainable developments would be difficult as this is an ad-hoc approach.

1 Introduction

Introduction

- 1.6 This Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA incorporating SEA) is the second formal consultation stage about seeking views on sustainability issues.
- 1.7 The first formal consultation stage sought views on a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

What was the purpose of consultation on the SA Scoping Report?

- 1.8 The main purpose of the Scoping Report was to seek views on whether the Sustainability Appraisal objectives were appropriate to help appraise the Plan. The Scoping Report considered the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the area to provide a higher level environmental protection and balance considerations in the preparation of the Plan. The report sought to understand the situation now and what strategies are already in place to deal with any issues.
- 1.9 The information in the Scoping Report was drawn from a wide variety of sources, including different policies, plans and programmes. Views were then sought on the SA Scoping Report.

What is this current consultation about?

- 1.10 This consultation is about seeking people's views on producing a SA/SEA, which informs and appraises the Local Plan Update (LPU) for Wokingham Borough.
- 1.11 Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA incorporating SEA) is the second formal consultation stage about seeking views on sustainability issues.

What is a Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment?

- 1.12 The SA / SEA gives the opportunity to consider ways in which the plan can contribute to improvements in economic, social and environmental conditions and giving us the chance to mitigate against any adverse effects the Plan might have.
- 1.13 The purpose of planning is to help to achieve sustainable development. Sustainable development means *“ensuring that better lives for ourselves don't mean worse lives for future generations”* ([National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#)).
- 1.14 The NPPF, in defining sustainable development, is based around three main pillars (see Figure 1) or roles of planning as set out in paragraph 7. These are:
- *“An economic role – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy*
 - *A social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities*
 - *An environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment”*

Figure 1 - The Three NPPF Pillars

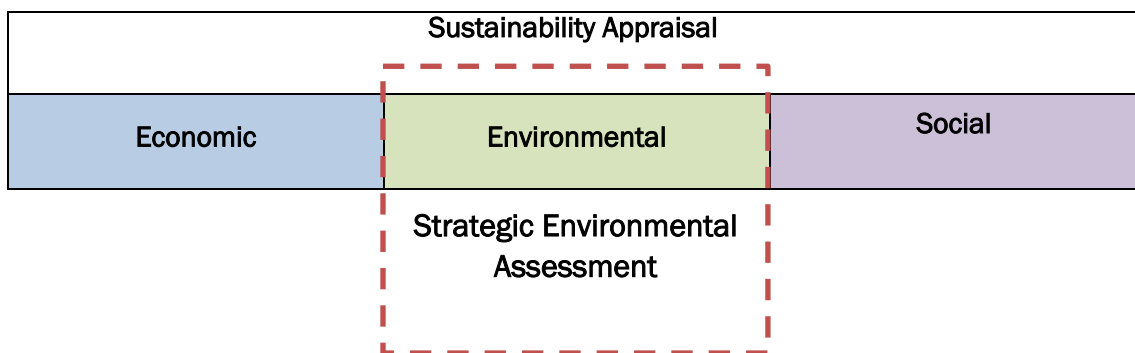


1.15 The SA / SEA will take account of the three pillars in order to ensure that sustainable development is achieved through the Local Plan Update process.

Why is the SEA incorporated into the SA?

1.16 The most sensitive pillar is the environmental pillar. The SEA takes account of very significant environmental effects that could result if the Plan is or isn't implemented. For example, air pollution does not respect political boundaries. Figure 2 shows the relationship between the SA, SEA and the three pillars.

Figure 2 - SA/SEA incorporation



How do I get involved?

1.17 Consultation on the SA/SEA of Issues and Options documents runs from 4 August to 4pm on 30 September 2016 **alongside** the Local Plan Update Issues and Options document itself.

1.18 The statutory SEA Consultation Bodies with environmental responsibilities that are specifically consulted on the SA / SEA are;

- Historic England
- Environment Agency

- Natural England
- 1.19 However, other people can respond to the SA / SEA consultation and a list of questions can be found in Appendix 2.
- 1.20 You can find all of the documents on the Council's website at www.wokingham.gov.uk/localplanupdate. Paper copies are also available at the Council's offices at Shute End. A leaflet has also been produced to highlight the key issues.
- 1.21 Please send us your comments via our online form, by email or by post. If you only wish to address certain parts of the consultation, please feel free to respond to only some of the questions.
- Online at: www.wokingham.gov.uk/consultations
 - By email to: LPU@wokingham.gov.uk
 - By post to: Land Use & Transport Team, Wokingham Borough Council, Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WR
- 1.22 If you have any questions regarding the consultation, please contact the Land Use and Transport Team on 0118 974 6478 or by emailing LPU@wokingham.gov.uk.

What happens next?

- 1.23 Your comments will be published as part of the Local Plan Update process. These comments, along with the comments received for the Issues and Options consultation, and the undertaking of further technical studies, will help us to develop the Local Plan Update 'Preferred Options', which is the next stage of the plan-making process. At the Preferred Options stage, it will explain why certain options are preferred to others and will seek your views on whether you agree. Views will also be sought on a refined SA / SEA that will accompany the Preferred Options.

Local Plan Update Issues and Options

- 1.24 The Issues and Options stage of the Local Plan Update process is a scoping and shaping stage to understand what should be included within the plan and set up a direction of travel.
- 1.25 The consultation, which is running alongside this SA/SEA consultation, is about seeking peoples' views on producing a LPU for Wokingham Borough.
- 1.26 You can find all of the documents for the Issues and Options, as well as how to comment on the document, on the Council's website at www.wokingham.gov.uk/localplanupdate.

Summary and Next stage of the Planning Process

- 1.27 The SA process has helped to inform the preparation of the Local Plan Update, with recommendations put forward through the appraisal process incorporated into the LPU. The SA has identified a number of recommendations and mitigation measures for the spatial strategy options to help mitigate potentially adverse effects and maximise positive effects. Ultimately, success of the policies will depend on their implementation.

Implementation and Monitoring Proposals

- 1.28 To ensure the Local Plan Update is successful in the long term, it is important that the LPU is implemented properly.
- 1.29 The policies that will ultimately be contained within the final (adopted) Local Plan Update will be capable of being monitored.

2 Background and Methodology

Requirement for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

- 2.1 The requirement for SEA comes from European legislation (a Directive) and we currently still have to consider this aspect. As well as the requirements of the SEA Directive, the [National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#) sets out what is referred to 'tests of soundness'. Paragraph 182 of the NPPF sets out that when a local planning authority submit a plan for examination (by a Planning Inspector), they "*should submit a plan for examination which it considers is 'sound'*". One of the tests of soundness is that the plan is "*Justified – the plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives*".
- 2.2 The following legislation is applicable to this Sustainability Appraisal
- [The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act \(2004\) as amended](#)
 - [The European Directive 2001/EC, known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) Directive](#); and
 - [The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 \(the SEA Regulations\)](#).

Stages of a Sustainability Appraisal

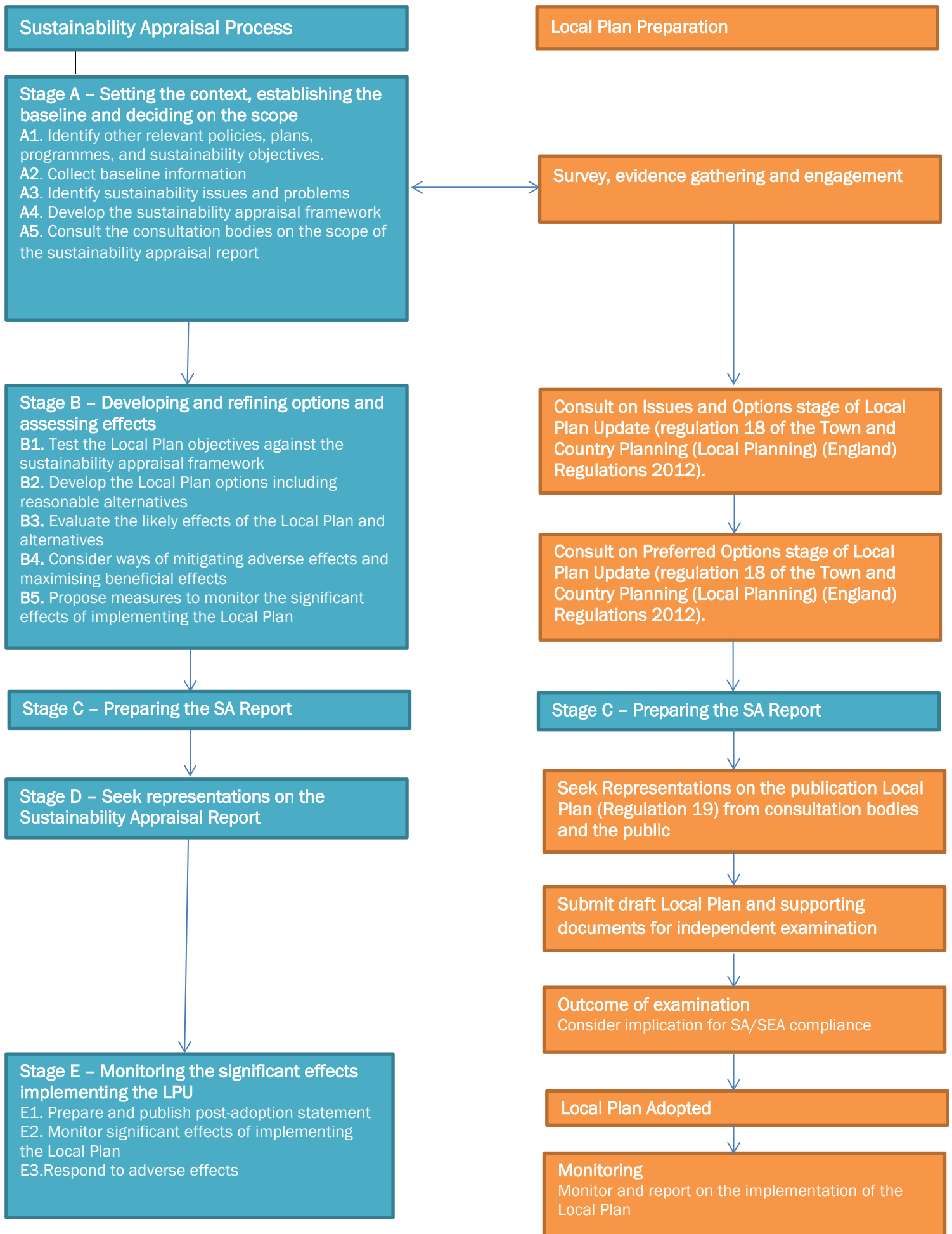
- 2.3 Sustainability Appraisal is a multi-stage process. [The National Guidance on sustainability appraisal](#) provides clarity on the need for sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessment in relation to plan development. The guidance sets out the process in a number of stages, as set out in table 2.

Table 2 - Stages of the Sustainability Appraisal

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
A1 - Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes, and sustainability objectives.
A2 - Collect baseline information
A3 - Identify sustainability issues and problems
A4 - Develop the sustainability appraisal framework
A5 - Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal report
Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects
B1 - Test the Local Plan objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework
B2 - Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives
B3 - Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives
B4 - Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
B5 - Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan
Stage C: Prepare the Sustainability Appraisal Report
Stage D: Seek representations on the Sustainability Appraisal Report
Stage E: Post adoption reporting and monitoring
E1 - Prepare and publish post-adoption statement
E2 - Monitor significant effects of implementing the Local Plan
E3 - Respond to adverse effects

2.4 Figure 3 shows the LPU process alongside the SA process.

Figure 3 - The Local Plan Update process in relation to the SA Process



- 2.5 Tasks A1 to A5 were carried out in 2015/16 in developing the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. They do not therefore need to be repeated in this report, although in carrying out the assessments in Stage B we will need to consider whether there is more up-to-date information on plans or programmes, baseline data or sustainability issues that need to be taken into account for specific assessments. These will be highlighted within the assessments where they are relevant.

What does this report contain?

- 2.6 This Sustainability Appraisal assesses the options set out in the Local Plan Issues and Options / Preferred Options (July – September 2016). These options work at a range of levels, from options for dealing with a broad strategic matter such as how to accommodate Wokingham Borough’s housing need, to options about whether there should be policies about the type (mix) of different housing.
- 2.7 This report covers stage B of the list shown in Figure 1 (excluding B1 as this can’t be completed at this early stage of the LPU process). Stage A is dealt with in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. Stages C and D relate to the full Sustainability Appraisal Report of the publication (also known as Proposed Submission) plan, which comes at a later stage, whilst Stage E cannot be undertaken before the Local Plan is adopted. It does not represent the final version of those stages, which will be undertaken when a full draft plan is produced, but is an initial undertaking of those stages for the options set out.
- 2.8 SA Promotes sustainable development by identifying the likely sustainability effects of the proposed objectives and broad policy options for the Local Plan Update, together with making recommendations for reducing, mitigating or compensating any significant adverse effects and maximising positive effects.
- 2.9 The Appraisal generally consists of assessing the options within the plan against the 22 sustainability objectives that are set out in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (July 2016). This assessment involves considering what effect the plan, policy or option will have on that objective, in the short, medium or long term, and in conjunction with other plans and policies.
- 2.10 The Appraisal then moves onto assessing each of the options for consultation set out in the Issues and Options document against the 22 sustainability objectives, in order of how they appear in the document (stages B3 and B4 of the sustainability appraisal process). This is undertaken in appendix 1.

Limitations of Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.11 Sustainability Appraisal is an extremely valuable exercise in terms of balancing various effects against each other, and continues to be of great use in drawing up plans and policies. However, it does not represent the whole of the analysis needed. Even where one option scores most positively in terms of sustainability, it may not be appropriate for other reasons that are not highlighted here.
- 2.12 One particular factor which SA can overlook is the likelihood of implementation. Some of these options may have much less certainty of delivery than others, and this needs to be taken into account in drawing up a plan which is supposed to be realistic and achievable. These considerations will be presented as part of the background evidence for the Proposed Submission Local Plan Update.

- 2.13 Care also needs to be taken not to treat the SA as a quantitative exercise. It is not simply a matter of how many ticks are in the appraisal. On some sites, one positive effect may outweigh several negative effects, and vice versa. Again, the background evidence to support the Proposed Submission Local Plan Update will explain why such decisions have been made.

Who carried out the Sustainability Appraisal?

- 2.14 The production of the SA is the responsibility of the local planning authority. There is no requirement that the report be prepared by an independent body to that responsible for the plan itself, which is the subject of the appraisal. Indeed, the core philosophy behind the system of sustainability appraisal is that the process informs the production of the plan, and therefore, too great an independence is not desirable.
- 2.15 This Sustainability Appraisal was drafted mainly by the officers responsible for the production of the Local Plan Update. This is appropriate at this stage, as the consideration of environmental, social and economic outcomes is the central element to deciding on the policy approach and the suitability of each site. As a result, the Sustainability Appraisal will significantly influence the content of the Local Plan Update.

Requirements of the SEA Directive

- 2.16 Table 3 sets out the requirements of the SEA Directive and signposts relevant Sections of the SA Report where these requirements are fulfilled.
- 2.17 The majority of the SEA requirements set out below were met in the SA Scoping Report which was consulted on in November 2015. A copy of the document can be found on the Council's website at www.wokingham.gov.uk/localplanupdate

Table 3 - SEA Requirements and where these are addressed in this report

Requirement	Section of this Report
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationships with other relevant plans and programmes.	1
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme	3, SA Scoping Report
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	3, SA Scoping Report
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC	SA Scoping Report
e) The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	SA Scoping Report
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative	SA Scoping Report
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	Appendix 1, SA Scoping Report
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	SA Scoping Report
i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10. Section 9	5
j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	Non-Technical Summary

Sustainability Objectives, baseline description and context

2.18 The Council undertook a review of key planning policy and baseline information for the Borough as part of an initial 'Scoping Process'. The results of this exercise were documented in the Scoping Report which was issued for consultation in November 2015. The consultation comments were carefully considered and reviewed before a final Scoping Report was published.

3 Sustainability Objectives, Baseline Description and Context

3.1 The objectives that are being used to appraise the Local Plan Update can be seen below in figure 4. These objectives are in the SA Scoping Report.

Figure 4 - Wokingham Borough Sustainability Objectives

Wokingham Borough Sustainability Objectives	
SOCIAL	1. To make provision for local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent sustainably constructed and affordable home
	2. To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment by ensuring no inappropriate development in any areas at risk of flooding and use sustainable drainage solutions and other solutions in line with advice from the Environment Agency where necessary.
	3. Safe and secure environment
	4. To improve the health and well-being of the population.
	5. To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities
	6. To reduce poverty and social exclusion
	7. To raise educational attainment, skills and training opportunities
	8. To improve accessibility to services, amenities and facilities in particular by safe walking and cycling routes
	9. To reduce road congestion and pollution levels on the local and strategic road network (SRN) by improving travel facilities and choices including safe walking and cycling routes and public transport
ENVIRONMENTAL	10. To improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land, existing buildings, including the re-use of resources and remediation of previously developed land
	11. To minimise impacts arising from pollution and improve and prevent where possible
	12. To conserve and enhance biodiversity, including wildlife and river corridors and networks and to maximise opportunities for building in beneficial features for biodiversity including limiting the impact of climate change.
	13. To protect and enhance the countryside and historic environment
	14. To sustainably use resources (including renewable and non-renewable resources)
	15. To address waste by: reducing and minimising waste as a priority, re-use then recycle, compost or energy recovery
	16. To maintain, and, where appropriate improve water quality (including groundwater and surface water) and to achieve sustainable water resource management of both surface and groundwater flows.
	17. To maintain and where appropriate improve soil quality, and to ensure land affected by contamination is remediated to a condition suitable for use
	18. To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough

	19. Appropriate new development makes a positive contribution or makes no material harm to the character, environment, landscape and heritage within and around the Borough
ECONOMIC	20. To ensure high and stable levels of employment
	21. To encourage 'smart' economic growth
	22. Maintaining a buoyant and competitive economy with a range of jobs without adversely affecting the quality of life

- 3.2 This information was originally published in the SA scoping report and has been replicated here.
- 3.3 Figure 5 shows how the objectives were tested against one another for internal compatibility. This exercise highlights that there may be the potential for internal conflicts with what they aim to achieve.
- 3.4 The objectives have not been prioritised at this stage, but this may be necessary later in the appraisal process in the case of conflicts. When prioritising objectives it is important to recognise that the environmental requirements of the SEA must be fully met and not diluted by the prioritising of environmental objectives lower than social and economic.

Figure 5 - SA/SEA Objectives Internal Compatibility Assessment

1																							
2	✓																						
3	✓	✓																					
4	✓	✓	✓																				
5	✓			✓																			
6	✓			✓	✓																		
7				✓		✓																	
8				✓	✓	✓	✓																
9				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓															
10	✗	✗																					
11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✗													
12	✗	✓		✓	✓			✓															
13	✗	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓											
14	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓											
15									✓	✓			✓										
16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
17				✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
18	✓			✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
19	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
20	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓										
21						✓		✓		✓											✓		
22		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	

KEY:

- ✓ - COMPATIBLE
- ✗ - INCOMPATIBLE
- NO RELATIONSHIP

3.5 Figure 6 represents any objectives that may be incompatible with other objectives. These objectives should still be used in the SA/SEA objectives regardless of potential conflict. As they have been highlighted at an early stage, the framework will be able to take these into consideration when appraising the Local Plan Update.

Figure 6 - Incompatible Objectives

Objective	Incompatible Objective	Incompatible Objective
10 – Improve efficiency of land through the re-use of previously developed land	1 – Local housing provision	2 – Reducing the risk of flooding
12 – Conserve and enhance biodiversity		
13 – Protect and enhance the Borough’s countryside and environment		
11 – Minimise impacts arising from pollution	10 – Improve efficiency of land through the re-use of previously developed land	
19 – New development makes a positive contribution to the character, environment, landscape and heritage within and around the Borough		

3.6 The objectives associated with making provision for local housing provision (objective 1) and those which aim to improve efficiency of land through the re-use of previously developed land (objective 10), to conserve and enhance the Borough’s biodiversity (objective 12) and to protect and enhance the Borough’s countryside and environment (objective 13) may be incompatible. Development can lead to environmental issues and these will be carefully managed throughout the plan. For example, development may have an effect on local biodiversity (both within and around the borough) due to increased transport and visitors. These sites will need to be carefully managed through methods such as buffer zones. In many circumstances, these issues can be satisfactorily managed through careful consideration within the plan making process.

3.7 There is also potential conflict between reducing the risk of flooding (objective 2) and those which aim to improve efficiency of land through the re-use of previously developed land (objective 10) and to conserve and enhance the Borough’s biodiversity (objective 12). In order to reduce the risk of flooding on previously developed land, only appropriate and sustainable development within flood zones 2, 3a and 3b will be approved. The plan

will also take into account advice from the Environment Agency regarding development in the floodplain in order to ensure no inappropriate development occurs and the wildlife and biodiversity in these areas are protected.

- 3.8 The objectives associated with to improve the efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land (objective 10) and those which aim to minimise impacts arising from pollution (objective 11) and appropriate new development makes a positive contribution to the character, environment, landscape and heritage within the Borough (objective 19) may be incompatible. Development on previously developed land will need to be carefully considered in order to not have a detrimental effect on the character, environment, landscape and heritage within the borough. Careful planning and collaborative work with developers, such as pre application discussions, will allow the plan to satisfactorily manage the impact of such developments.

4 Appraisal of the Options

Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects
B1 – Test the Local Plan objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework
B2 – Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives
B3 – Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives
B4 – Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
B5 - Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

- 4.1 B1 – The Local Plan Update is currently at the scoping stage in order to gather views on a shared vision for the Borough and a set of meaningful objectives for achieving this vision. Therefore, we will appraise the objectives at the next stage of the Local Plan Update.
- 4.2 B2 – The options for the Local Plan Update are set out in the Issues and Options document itself, which provides commentary on how the options have been created.
- 4.3 B3 – This step takes in the most significant element of the SA process by assessing the likely effects of the options that have been identified for the Local Plan Update. Each of the options set out in the Issues and Options document is assessed against each of the 22 sustainability objectives and an evaluation of each option can be found in appendix 1.
- 4.4 B4 – The assessment should consider whether there are measures that can be taken to mitigate adverse effects or to emphasise the positive effects. At this stage of the plan, the commentary surrounding possible measures will be in general terms. However, at a later stage when the draft plan is being appraised, the references can be more specific and relate to possible changes to policies elsewhere in the document, or other specific measures that can be taken.
- 4.5 B5 – The proposed measures to monitor any significant effects of implementing the Local Plan can be found in chapter 5 of the SA/SEA document.

5 Implementation and Monitoring Proposals

- 5.1 The SEA Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC “The assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the Environment”) requires that the significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme should be monitored in order to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. SA monitoring will cover the significant sustainability effects as well as the environmental effects.
- 5.2 The suggested monitoring system includes (sourced from the European Commission, 2003):
- Determination of the scope of monitoring
 - Identification of the necessary information
 - Identification of existing sources of information
 - Data at project level
 - General environmental monitoring and
 - Other data
 - Filling the gaps
 - Procedural integration of monitoring into the planning system
 - Taking remedial action
- 5.3 In particular and in line with the guidance, monitoring will be focused on significant environmental effects, such as those;
- Which indicate a likely breach of international, national and local legislation, recognised guidelines or standards
 - That may give rise to irreversible damage with a view to identifying trends before such damage occurs
 - Where there was uncertainty over possible adverse effects, and where monitoring would enable mitigation measures to be taken.
- 5.4 Monitoring should involve measuring indicators which enable a casual link to be established between the Local Plan Update and the likely significant effects being monitored. Potential indicators have been proposed in the Scoping Report (appendix 2) for each objective, drawing from existing sources to ensure the recording of data for the indicator is established (at local, sub regional / regional and national level). The effectiveness of policies will look to be assessed against measurable targets.

Appendix 1 - Local Plan Update Options Appraisal

Commentary on the Assessment where compatibility is unclear

At this early stage of producing the Local Plan Update, the questions were developed to understand the issues relating to the Borough. One of the questions in the Local Plan Update was about where development should go. This option has therefore been appraised in order to evaluate its likely effects.

Each option was assessed individually with regards to impact and time.

Key

✓ ✓	Option has a major positive impact on the SA Objective
✓	Option has a minor positive impact on the SA Objective
-	Option has a neutral impact on the SA Objective
x	Option has a minor negative impact on the SA Objective
xx	Option has a major negative impact on the SA Objective
?	Impact is uncertain
ST	Short Term (during the construction of new development)
MT	Medium Term (5 to 10 years post completion of new development)
LT	Long Term (Over 10 years post completion of new development)

SA Objective	Option 1 – Continue the approach of a small number of large developments that provide for their own infrastructure needs based on garden town/village principles			Option 2 - A large number of smaller developments around the Borough			Option 3 - Do nothing and let the market dictate when and where development will take place			Option 4 - Focus development at existing larger settlements			Option 5 - Focus development at existing smaller settlements			Option 6 - A combination of some / all of the above approaches		
	ST	MT	LT	ST	MT	LT	ST	MT	LT	ST	MT	LT	ST	MT	LT	ST	MT	LT
1. To make provision for local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent sustainably constructed and affordable home	✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
2. To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment by ensuring no inappropriate development in any areas at risk of flooding and use sustainable drainage solutions and other solutions in line with advice from the	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Environment Agency where necessary.																		
3. Safe and secure environment	✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. To improve the health and well-being of the population.	✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities	✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
6. To reduce poverty and social exclusion	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
7. To raise educational attainment, skills and training opportunities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. To improve accessibility to services, amenities and facilities in particular by safe walking and cycling routes	-	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	-	-	-	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-

9. To reduce road congestion and pollution levels on the local and strategic road network (SRN) by improving travel facilities and choices including safe walking and cycling routes and public transport	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	-	-
10. To improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land, existing buildings, including the re-use of resources and remediation of previously developed land	xx	xx	xx	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
11. To minimise impacts arising from pollution and improve and prevent where possible	xx	-	-	xx	x	x	xx	x	x	xx	x	x	xx	x	x	xx	x	x

12. To conserve and enhance biodiversity, including wildlife and river corridors and networks and to maximise opportunities for building in beneficial features for biodiversity including limiting the impact of climate change.	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13. To protect and enhance the countryside and historic environment	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
14. To sustainably use resources (including renewable and non-renewable resources)	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
15. To address waste by: reducing and minimising waste as a priority, re-use then recycle, compost or energy recovery	✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. To maintain, and, where appropriate improve water quality (including groundwater and surface water) and to achieve sustainable water resource	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

management of both surface and groundwater flows.																		
17. To maintain and where appropriate improve soil quality, and to ensure land affected by contamination is remediated to a condition suitable for use	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
18. To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19. Appropriate new development makes a positive contribution or makes no material harm to the character, environment, landscape and heritage within and around the Borough	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	xx	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20. To ensure high and stable levels of employment	✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

21. To encourage 'smart' economic growth	✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22. Maintaining a buoyant and competitive economy with a range of jobs without adversely affecting the quality of life	✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Conclusions from the appraisal of options

An important element of predicting and evaluating the impacts of policies within the Local Plan Update is to consider the likelihood of a range of effects relating to the nature of, scale and time when implementing new policies. Examples of cumulative, secondary and synergistic effects include loss of tranquillity, changes in the landscape, economic decline and climate change.

The policies within the Local Plan Update are assessed for their individual impacts, but there may be collective effects which occur as a result of the policies being implemented in combination. These impacts may be greater than the sum of implementing individual policies. Good practice suggests that cumulative impact assessment should be conducted throughout and as an integrated component of the SA process.

	Option 1 - Continue the approach of a small number of large developments that provide for their own infrastructure needs based on garden town/village principles	Option 2 - A large number of smaller developments around the Borough	Option 3 - Do nothing and let the market dictate when and where development will take place	Option 4 - Focus development at existing larger settlements	Option 5 - Focus development at existing smaller settlements	Option 6 - A combination of some / all of the above approaches
Scale (Local, Sub-Regional, Regional, National, Global)	Local, Sub-Regional, Regional, National, Global	Local, Sub-Regional, Regional, National, Global	Local, Sub-Regional, Regional, National, Global	Local, Sub-Regional, Regional, National, Global	Local, Sub-Regional, Regional, National, Global	Local, Sub-Regional, Regional, National, Global
Permanence (Temporary or Permanent)	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent	Permanent
Effect (Secondary, Cumulative or Synergistic effects)	Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic effects	Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic effects	Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic effects	Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic effects	Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic effects	Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic effects

<p>Commentary including positive and negative effects</p>	<p>With the Garden town/village approach, the much needed infrastructure to deliver sustainable communities can be incorporated into the developments more readily. This approach would see a reduction in greenfield land impacting negatively upon objectives 10 and 11.</p>	<p>With a large number of small developments around the Borough, infrastructure is already in place, however, this option is more likely to increase strain on existing infrastructure than option 1. This option will have similar negative effects to option 1.</p>	<p>By letting the market dictate, there would be no control over where development would take place. Infrastructure would not be planned or incorporated into future development plans as the council would not be aware of where development would potentially take place. This would have a negative effect on options 4, 9 and 11.</p>	<p>With the expansion to existing larger settlements, employment levels will continue to be stable and smart economic growth will be encouraged. This option will have similar negative effects to option 1. This option is more likely to create more strain on existing infrastructure than option 1.</p>	<p>Expanding existing smaller settlements, infrastructure is already in place, however, this option is more likely to increase strain on existing infrastructure than option 1.</p>	<p>By combining all or some of the options the boroughs characteristic could be negatively impacted due to this sporadic approach. Existing infrastructure may not be able to cope with the new developments and planning for sustainable developments would be difficult as this is an ad-hoc approach.</p>
<p>Mitigation</p>	<p>A large number of the effects identified above are negative, but many of these can be mitigated through the right combination of policies in the plan. The environmental performance of houses can be mitigated through sustainable design measures, although the Council's ability to apply these has been reduced by the removal of the Code for Sustainable Homes. Effects on flood risk and biodiversity may be capable of mitigation on site, although further site specific work would be needed. Effects on townscape and the historic environment can be addressed by design measures, but the ability to address the issue reduces as the proposed level of housing increases. Provision of new infrastructure, e.g. education and healthcare, can mitigate negative impacts.</p>					

Next steps

Stage B (excluding B1) has been completed as part of this SA/SEA report for the Issues and Options. Stage B1 of the process will be completed once the Council has undertaken the consultation on the Issues and Options report and has created a range of objectives for the Local Plan Update. The SA/SEA for the Preferred Options stage of the LPU process will enable the Council to undertake the B1 stage of the SA/SEA process.

Table 3 shows the stages that have been undertaken for the Issues and Options and the stages that will be completed for the Preferred Options report.

Table 4 - Stage B of the SA/SEA process

Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects	Issues and Options SA/SEA	Preferred Options SA/SEA
B1 – Test the Local Plan objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework	x	✓
B2 – Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives	✓	✓
B3 – Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives	✓	✓
B4 – Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects	✓	✓
B5 - Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan	✓	✓

Appendix 2

The questions that we are seeking your views on can be seen in table 5. A copy of these questions will also be available on the Council's website.

Table 5 - Consultation Questions

Number	Question
Q1	Do you support the overall approach taken to the appraisal of Issues and Options for Local Plan policies?
Q2	Have we correctly identified the main significant effects and potential mitigation measures?
Q3	Do you support the overall approach taken to the appraisal of the spatial strategy option?
Q4	Do you wish to make a comment on the scores given to any specific option(s) for the spatial strategy?
Q5	Does this SA/SEA report of the Issues and Options, together with the Issue and Options document, provide sufficient information at this stage to ensure that an appropriate SA can be carried out of the Local Plan?
Q6	Do you have any other comments you wish to make regarding the SA/SEA?